The Waisman Center is Recruiting Children and Adolescents with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

Language Intervention Study
Drs. Leonard Abbeduto, Susan Ellis Weismer, and Andrea McDuffie are starting a language intervention study for parents and their children with ASD, between 18-months and 5-years of age, and who use very few spoken words. Based on the Hanen program, More Than Words, this study will involve teaching parents how to encourage their children's spoken language development. Contact Andrea McDuffie, PhD, CCC-SLP at: (608) 890-1683 or mcduffie@waisman.wisc.edu

Twin Autism Project
Another study is recruiting twins between 2- and 21-years of age, in which one or both twins has autism and lives anywhere in Wisconsin or adjoining states. Two goals of this study are to determine if twins are at any increased risk for autism and to better understand genetic factors in autism. Contact the Twin Autism Project at: (608) 262-5574 or toll-free, (866) 230-2560 or e-mail: tap@waisman.wisc.edu. Website: www.waisman.wisc.edu/twinresearch

Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) Training
The ADOS is considered to be one of the best assessments for diagnosing autism. The assessment consists of several interactive “play” activities that allow the interviewer to observe an individual's communication and social behavior. We are currently seeking individuals of all ages who have been diagnosed with autism to help train Waisman Center staff on how to conduct the assessment. Individuals of all communication ability levels are eligible to participate. Participation involves 1 visit to the Waisman Center that lasts no more than one hour, and the parent may be asked to stay in the room. The session will be videotaped in order to evaluate the interviewer's techniques and accuracy of diagnostic conclusions. Please note that because the ADOS is being administered for research training purposes only, participants will not receive any information about clinical impressions from the assessment. Contact Susan Vial at: (608) 263-5192 or toll-free at: (800) 965-9205 or e-mail: vial@waisman.wisc.edu

Study of Latino Families with Children who have Autism
To date, very few research projects have explored the experiences of Latino children with autism and their families. We are excited to announce a new interview-based study for Latino parents who have children with an autism spectrum diagnosis between 3- and 21-years of age. Interviews will be conducted in the language of preference (Spanish or English). The study aims to understand the strengths and challenges these families face in caring for a child with autism. The study will also look at how Latino children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, and how families learn about and receive services. Contact Sandy Magaña at: (608) 263-0270 or e-mail: magana@waisman.wisc.edu.

Early Word Learning Project
Social-Affective Bases of Early Word Learning in Fragile X syndrome and Autism - Waisman Center investigator Leonard Abbeduto, PhD, is studying how children with fragile X and/or autism use the social cues of other people when they learn new words. Boys between 4- and 10-years of age, who have a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder, are invited to participate with their mothers in two visits 1.5 years apart. Boys are eligible for this study if they use speech to communicate and if they can say at least 10 different words (or speak in short phrases or sentences). Children will be asked to complete a group of language and cognitive tests as well as four word learning tasks that have a game-like format. Mothers will be asked to fill out questionnaires and to participate with their child in a 15-min parent-child play session. Participants will receive $50 at each visit and travel accommodations will be provided for out of town participants. Contact Susen Schroeder or Emily Porter at: (608) 263-5145 or e-mail: abbeduto@waisman.wisc.edu or mcduffie@waisman.wisc.edu.

(See other side for more information)
Brain Structure and Function: Autism fMRI Study

Waisman Center investigator Kim Dalton, PhD and colleagues are studying brain structure and function in individuals with autism. Participation involves one 2-hour session at the Waisman Center, during which the individual completes various cognitive activities while an fMRI records brain activity. The study is looking for males and females between 5- and 35-years of age with a diagnosis of Williams syndrome, fragile X syndrome or autism. All participants will be paid for their time and will receive pictures of their brain. Braces or permanent retainers make an individual ineligible for this study. Contact Kim Dalton, PhD at: (608) 263-8913 or e-mail: kmdalton@wisc.edu. Website: http://brainimaging.waisman.wisc.edu.

Reports from a study on Families of Adolescents and Adults with Autism

Although the project is no longer recruiting participants, reports from Lifespan Family Research being conducted at the Waisman Center are available at: http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/family/study_autism.html

Each report focuses on a certain topic:

Report #1: Year One Book of Quotes
Report #2: A Profile of Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Report #3: Reflections from Adult Siblings who have a Brother or Sister with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
Report #4: Recommended Resources from Families of Adolescents and Adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
Report #5: Family Accommodations—a Study of Family Care giving
Report #6: Reflections from Adolescent Siblings Who Have a Brother/Sister with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
Report #7: Health-Related Needs for Adolescents and Adults with Autism and Their Parents
Report #8: An Inside Perspective from Adolescents and Adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
Report #9: Study Update
Report #10: A Profile of Adolescent and Adult Siblings
Report #11: Daily Experiences and Biological Markers of Stress in Mothers of Adolescents and Adults with ASD
Report #12: Changes in Medication Use over Time in Adolescents and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Would you like to be contacted to participate in Waisman Center research?

The Waisman Center’s Research Participation Core maintains a confidential registry of families who would like to be notified about research opportunities. There are many different types of studies being conducted at the Waisman Center: some projects seek participants who have a specific developmental disability, while others require typically developing participants, sometimes children are needed to participate and other times their parents or siblings are the participants. Please note that enrolling in the registry does not obligate your family to participate in a project and you may withdraw from the registry anytime.

To enroll in our participant registry please contact:
Susan Vial at: (608) 263-5192 or Toll-free: (800) 965-9205
E-mail: vial@waisman.wisc.edu
www.waisman.wisc.edu/rpc/index.html

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